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REPORT (PART II)  
ON  
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL  
FOR THE  
Week ending Saturday, 24th May 1902.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

713. The *Indian Mirror*, remarking on the prevalence of all sorts of disquieting rumours of the state of affairs in Afghanistan, says that the Government of India

The Afghan outlook.

does not always get the necessary news when it should, and that its reticence does more mischief than good. The Amir's brothers and sisters, though quiescent, are still discontented; the pay of the Afghan soldiery is in arrears; the influence of the Hadda Mulla who is said to have been quick to take advantage of the change in rulers, and Russia as a factor never to be neglected, constitute dangers which the *Mirror* would draw attention to. Only the very sanguine or very ignorant would dare predict that Habibulla will establish himself firmly on the throne without disturbances of a more or less grave nature.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
15th May 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

714. In the finding of the Magistrate in the case brought by some Muhammadan processionists against Mr. Ryan, District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi, the

The District Magistrate and the District Judge of Rajshahi.

*Amrita Bazar Patrika* discovers that Mr. Roe, the

District Magistrate, has insinuated that the case was concocted in the hope that it would please the District Judge with whom Mr. Ryan had had a private difference, and that having prejudged the case, he, as a Judicial Officer, is not fit to take it up.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th May 1902.

715. The *Bengalee* says that an Uriya Pandit of Banki some time ago submitted a petition under his signature to the Collector of Cuttack making serious allegations against the then Deputy Collector of Banki.

Allegations against a Magistrate.

Mr. Herald, at that time Collector of Cuttack, however, insisted on the Pandit submitting a criminal complaint which he would not do, but forwarded another and similar petition to the Divisional Commissioner, the Board of Revenue, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. As a result of this communication the Collector was called upon to submit his report. He is alleged, however, to have "still maintained his *zid*," and to have practically set at naught the order of the Commissioner by ordering one of his subordinates to make a judicial instead of a departmental enquiry into the matter. The Collector purporting to act in his judicial capacity under section 476, Criminal Procedure Code, ordered the prosecution of the petitioner under sections 211 and 182, Indian Penal Code. But the petitioner moving the District Judge of Cuttack to set aside this order, the *Bengalee* says that the District Judge after recording a careful judgment in which he has animadverted on the attitude of the District Magistrate, has recommended the High Court to set aside the order as illegal and without jurisdiction.

BENGALIE,  
16th May 1902.

## (h)—General.

716. While exonerating the Government of all blame in the matter of miscarriages of justice in cases where Europeans are the accused, the *Behar Herald* suggests that

Europeans versus Indians.

in order to remedy such lawlessness Government should put down with a firm hand all contemptuous references to Indians and remove the impression that a conquered people have no rights whatever, and that any violent crime against them is no crime at all. All this must be suppressed, says the *Herald*, for a greater and better reason than that which actuated the Government in passing the sedition law.

BEHAR HERALD,  
10th May 1902.

717. The following paragraph is taken from *Power and Guardian*:—

Lord Curzon and the Agra musjids.

"If we have found Lord Curzon strangely reticent in respect of the many acts of official highhandedness that we have had the misfortune to unearth within the last two months, we cannot help thanking him for certain acts

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
11th May 1902.



and orders which perhaps we could not have expected from any other Viceroy. At Lahore there are two mosques which are now used by Government as Government offices. One is the "Dai Anga," which now locates the office of the Traffic Superintendent, North-Western Railway, and the other is the Mati Musjid in the fort, used as the treasury. The misuse of these holy edifices certainly gives a handle to the Muhammadan population to express discontent. We are, therefore, glad to note that Lord Curzon has issued orders to vacate them at once in order to be reconverted to their original purpose. This is as it should be, and we thank His Excellency for doing this act of bare justice."

BENGALUR,  
12th May 1902.

718. Referring to the proposal of the Government of the United Provinces to discontinue competitive examinations for appointment to the Subordinate Executive Ser-

vices, the *Bengalee* dilates on the merits of the competitive system which far outweigh its demerits, and holds that the system of nomination had had a sufficiently prolonged trial and perished by its own rottenness, and to reintroduce it would be reactionary and retrogressive.

BENGALUR,  
12th May 1902.

719. Referring to the keen disappointment that the educated community throughout the Province will feel at the decision of the Government of India, in the matter of the memorial of the mufassal municipalities

The Government and the educated community.

against the withdrawal of a seat in the Bengal Legislative Council, the *Bengalee* says that the action of the Government adds one more to the many instances which go to show that the educated community are not in the good books of the Government. It cites the Calcutta Municipal Act, the Panjab Land Alienation Act, the Bombay Land Revenue Law, the rejection of the prayer of the educated community for the wider employment of the people in the minor civil services, and the absence of a single representative of that community at the forthcoming Coronation.

"And yet we have been told times without number that the Government pays great attention to the views of the educated community. We presume their views are attentively studied in order that they may be scrupulously avoided in the practical work of Government."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th May 1902.

720. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* describes what it calls the attempt on the part of the Police at Rampur Boalia to humiliate Mr. Lee, the District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahi. Even the latter's complaint to the

The humiliation of Mr. Lee, District and Sessions Judge, Rajshahi.

Inspector-General of Police that Mr. Ryan, the District Superintendent of Police, had appeared before him in Court without his uniform was not noticed.

The *Patrika* adds:—The mischief is that Mr. Lee happens to be in the right. He further happens to be the aggrieved party. That being so, we felt bound to lend our humble support to him. We felt, however, that our support would deprive Mr. Lee of the sympathies of the Anglo-Indian papers. Let them therefore take note that the quarrel is not between a native and a European, and that Mr. Lee is not a pro-native civilian, ambitious to leave a name behind him among the Indians; but that he, though a civilian and Sessions Judge, has been humiliated flagrantly and openly by the Police, with the help of some of the Magistrates of the place, for only doing his duty and preserving the dignity of his Court.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGALUR,  
12th May 1902.

721. Referring to the reply of the Bengal Government to the Chairman of the Conference of delegates from mufassal municipalities on the refusal of the Government of

The Government of India and the mufassal municipalities.

India to re-open the question of the withdrawal of a seat in the Bengal Legislative Council from mufassal municipalities, the *Bengalee* says:—

"No reply could be more curt or more unsatisfactory. The reasons for the rejection of the memorial are not given. Not even a suggestion is made as to what these reasons are; and we may tell our rulers that in these days we are not prepared to accept even the *ipse dixit* of the Government of India, though it may be presided over by one of the ablest of Indian Viceroys."



722. The *Hindoo Patriot* advises representative associations and leading organs in the press to unite in protesting against the "unjustifiable action taken by the Supreme Government in rejecting the memorial of the Rangpur Municipality, praying for the restoration of the second seat in the local Legislative Council. The public have a right to expect much at the hands of their present sympathetic rulers of Bengal and India."

"We are inclined," it says, "to indulge a fond hope that if the matter be again represented to them in proper form and in a respectful way, these arbiters of our destinies might not find it too late for them to grant their prayer, as a concession to public opinion."

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
15th May 1902.

723. The *Indian Mirror* regards the decision of the Viceroy on the withdrawal of one of the two seats in the Bengal Council from the mufassal municipalities as occasioning no surprise, considering His Excellency's treatment of Indian public opinion, and his policy of retrogression and reaction. It was His Excellency who shortly after his arrival strangled local self-government in Calcutta, appointed Mr. Copplestone as Chief Judge in Burma in the teeth of Indian and Anglo-Indian opposition, and "valiantly championed" the system of "legalised slavery in the tea-gardens of Assam."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
17th May 1902.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

723. The *Indian Mirror* refers to the distribution by His Highness the Maharaja of Jeypur, before he sailed for England, of books in Hindi and Sanskrit proving the legality of sea-voyages, and also the Shrastric sanction in the matter. This action and the tendency of the times which compels the Hindu to travel for service or education, will go far to help the early solution of the sea-voyage problem.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
17th May 1902.

724. The Maharaja of Jeypur, says the *Bengalee*, has set an example in the matter of solving the sea-voyage question. Government, too, had an opportunity of helping the Hindu community to do so, if, on the occasion of the Coronation, it had invited a number of orthodox leaders to witness the great function. "But our Government is not even in touch with our aspirations."

BENGAL, 17th May 1902.

The journal complains that Hindu society will not object to re-admit people going to Japan, Rangoon or Hongkong, even to the Andamans as felons, but excludes from caste the young Hindu who proceeds to England, France or Italy in quest of knowledge or for purposes of trade and commerce.

If this anomaly were removed, the great merchants of Bara Bazar and Hatkhola would lose no time in visiting western countries and in extending the limits of their business.

725. The *Hindoo Patriot* referring to the complaints in circulation regarding the management of the Calcutta Public Library, appeals to His Excellency the Governor-General to pass necessary orders for the relaxation of the existing cast-iron rules, to enable the reading public to reap unhindered the benefits of the treasure of knowledge stored up therein.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th May 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 24th May 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.



